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His Majesties

Most Gracious

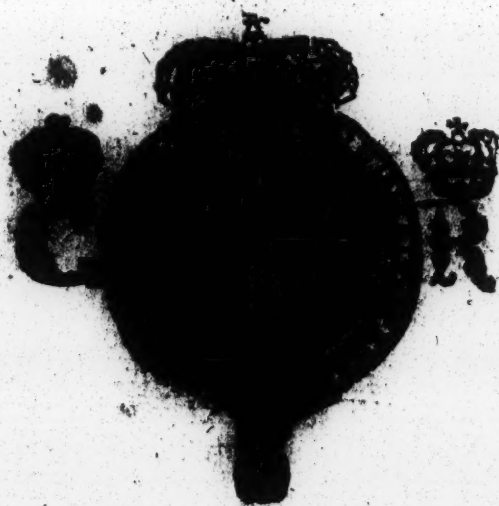
SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

At the opening of the PARLIAMENT
At Oxford, Monday the 21st of March, 1683.

By His Majesty's Command.



EDINBURGH.

Re-printed by the Heir of Andrew Anderson, Printer to His most
Sacred Majesty, Anno DOM. 1681.

214
1681
The 4th volume
of the first 20
to be published with
at 200 for

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN PARLIAMENT

OF GREAT BRITAIN

IN THE YEAR 1881

Printed by the Stationer

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Edinburgh, 1881

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To both HOUSES of
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Monday the 21st of March, 1683.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The unwarrantable Proceedings of the last House of Commons, were the occasion of My parting with the last Parliament. For I, who will never use Arbitrary Government My Self, am resolved not to suffer it in others. I am unwilling to mention particulars, because I am desirous to forget faults. But will consider what Offers I have formerly made, and what Assurances I renewed to the last Parliament, how I recommended nothing so much to them, as the Alliance I had made for preservation of the general Peace in Christendom, and the further examination of the Popish Plot, and how I desired their Advice and Assistance concerning the preservation of *Texas*, and shall then reflect upon the strange unthankful Returns made to such Propositions, by men that were called together to Consult; perhaps may wonder more, that I had patience so long, than that at last I grew weary of their Proceedings.

I have thought it necessary to say this much to you. That I may not have any new Occasion given Me to remember more of the late Mischances. It is as much My Interest, and shall be as much My Care as yours, to preserve the Liberty of the Subject, because the Commons can never be safe when that is in danger. And I shall have you will be convinced, that neither your Liberties nor Properties can last long, when the just Rights and Privileges of the Crown are invaded, or the Honour of the Government brought low, and into Disreputation.

I let you see by My calling this Parliament so soon, that no Irregularities in Parliaments shall make Me out of Love with Them; and by this Means offer you another Opportunity of providing for Our Security here, by giving that Countenance and Protection to

Our Neighbours and Allies, which you cannot but know They expect from Us, and extreemly stand in need of at this instant; and at the same time give one Evidence more, that I have not neglected My part, to give that general Satisfaction and Security, which, by the Blessing of God, may be attained, if you, on your parts, bring suitable Dispositions towards it: And that the just Care you ought to have of Religion, be not so managed and improv'd into unnecessary Fears, as to be made a pretence for changing the Foundations of the Government.

I hope the Example of the ill Success of former Heats, will dispose you to a better Temper, and not so much to Inveigh against what is past, as to Consider what is best to be done in the present Conjunction.

The further prosecution of the Plot, the Tryal of the Lords in the Tower, the Providing a more speedy Conviction for Recusants; and, if it be practicable, the Ridding Our selves quite of all of that Party, that have any considerable Authority and Interest amongst Them, are Things, though of the highest Importance, that hardly need to be recommended to you, they are so obvious to every mans Consideration, and so necessary for Our Security. But I must needs desire you not to lay so much weight upon any one Expedient against Popery, as to determine, that all other are ineffectual: And among all Your Cares for Religion, remember, that without the Safety and Dignity of the Monarchy, neither Religion nor Property can be preserved.

What I have formerly, and so often declared touching the Succession, I cannot depart from. But to remove all reasonable Fears that may arise from the possibility of a Popish Successor's coming to the Crown, if means can be found, that, in such a Case, the Administration of the Government may remain in Protestant Hands, I shall be ready to hearken to any such Expedient, by which the Religion might be Preserv'd, and the Monarchy not destroy'd.

I must therefore earnestly recommend to you, to provide for the Religion and the Government together, with regard to one another, because they support each other: And let Us be united at home, that We may recover the Esteem and Consideration We used to have abroad.

I conclude with this one Advice to you, That the Rules and Measures of all your Votes, may be the known and established Laws of the Land, which neither can, nor ought to be departed from, nor chang'd, but by Act of Parliament: And I may the more reasonably require, That you make the Laws of the Land your Rule, because I am resolv'd they shall be Mine.

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